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**LETTERS FROM
PARKMAN TO SQUIER**

DON C. SEITZ



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LETTERS FROM PARKMAN TO SQUIER



LETTERS
FROM
FRANCIS PARKMAN
TO
E. G. SQUIER

WITH BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES AND A
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF E. G. SQUIER

BY
DON C. SEITZ



CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA
THE TORCH PRESS
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first edition printed*

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CEDAR RAPIDS
IOWA

EPHRAIM GEORGE SQUIER, M. A., F. S. A.

1821 - 1888

Member of the Society of Antiquities of France; Royal Society of Antiquities of Denmark; Royal Society of Literature, Great Britain; Archæological Institute of London; American Ethnological Society; Academy of Natural History of Philadelphia; President of the Anthropological Institute of New York; Chargé d'Affaires, Central America, April 2, 1849, to September 13, 1850; Member Mixed Commission under Claims Convention of Jan. 12, 1863, between United States and Peru, July 17 to Nov. 27, 1863; Consul for Honduras in New York, 1869; Editor *Leslie's Weekly*, etc., etc.

TO THE MEMORY OF
FRANK SQUIER
1840-1908

INTRODUCTORY

THIS handful of letters from Francis Parkman to E. G. Squier represents the remains of a correspondence, covering a relationship of more than thirty years, between the historian and the scientist and explorer. Mr. Squier carried on an extensive correspondence with many of the great minds of the last century, beginning with Humboldt. This, with the exception of the Parkman letters, was deposited in the Library of Congress in 1908 by the late Frank Squier, of Brooklyn, New York, his younger brother, who acted as his executor.

Ephraim George Squier was born in the town of Bethlehem, Albany county, New York, June 17, 1821, sixth in line of descent from Samuel Squier, who was the friend and auditor of Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of England, and later his first lieutenant. Two sons of Samuel Squier, Samuel and Philip, emigrated to America after the Restoration, and settled for a time in Boston, removing thence to Connecticut. Here the family made a place and a name for itself. Philip Squier the second, great-grandfather of E. G. Squier, was an officer under Wolcott in the Colonial expedition against Louisburg, and his son Ephraim of Ash-

ford, Windham county, was an active factor in the American Revolution. He was second in command to Colonel Knowlton at Bunker Hill, and commanded a company in the Connecticut regiment that followed Benedict Arnold through the woods of Maine to Quebec, and took part in Montgomery's luckless assault.

With what was left of this same regiment, he followed Arnold again at Stillwater in that famous charge that altered the fortune of the day and led to the surrender of Burgoyne. Putnam, Parsons, and Webb were his friends, and he was a trusted agent on more than one difficult detail from General Washington himself. He served until the end of the war, and, returning to his farm, lived until he had passed his ninety-seventh year in 1842.

Joel Squier, father of E. G. Squier, was a Methodist clergyman, and the income of a wandering minister of that faith did not permit much outlay for tuition, so the boy educated himself between periods of farm labor and attended such schools as the rural districts afforded. He became a teacher first and then qualified as a civil engineer, but the panic period of 1837-'38-'39 rendered this occupation unprofitable. He turned to literary work and in 1841 became a special writer on the newspapers at Albany, and as his first independent venture edited "The Poets' Magazine; a Repository of Original and Selected American Poetry." But two numbers, April and May, 1842, were issued.

There was at the time a considerable agitation for prison reform, the organ of which was *The New York State Mechanic*. Mr. Squier wrote vigorously for the cause and soon became practically editor of the paper. He also wrote many of the documents prepared by the State Mechanics' Association to influence public sentiment regarding prison conditions, which eventually accomplished solid results in doing away with abuses. He also organized branch Mechanics' Associations throughout the state and caused them to play an important part on the political side of the work.

His success deprived him of employment. The cause won, the Association disbanded. The British occupation of Canton aroused interest in China, and he wrote his first book—a compilation of facts about the Celestial Kingdom. In 1844 he established the *Journal* at Hartford, Connecticut, with "Henry Clay, one first, one last and only choice," as a platform in the great Whig campaign of that year. He not only edited the paper, but reorganized and revived the party in the state with such skill that Van Buren's trained battalions were routed. The defeat of Clay in the nation disheartened Mr. Squier's Whig backers and he left Hartford in 1845, to become editor of the *Scioto Gazette*, published at Chillicothe, Ohio.

Here his first scientific aspiration took form. The ancient mounds of the Ohio caught his interest, and the leisure of a weekly newspaper office enabled

him to make the researches in company with Dr. E. H. Davis that in due time culminated in that rare and valuable volume, *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley*, the first publication issued by the Smithsonian Institution.

In 1846 Mr. Squier was elected clerk of the Ohio House of Representatives and was then able to devote more attention to science and exploration. His contributions to the literature of the Smithsonian Institution were so considerable as to bring him to the instant notice of savants here and abroad. Albert Gallatin became his intimate friend and gave him constant encouragement. Then began his correspondence with Humboldt and Jomard. Humboldt wrote of him: "With Dr. Morton's *Crania Americana*, the work of Mr. Squier constitutes the most valuable contribution ever made to the archæology and ethnology of America." He was elected to membership in the learned societies and became at once an authority upon aboriginal America at a time in the middle forties when "America" did not extend beyond the Mississippi Valley and was so new that the study of antiquities seemed almost amusing. Mr. Squier gathered knowledge for the world and stored it with infinite care.

From the aboriginal monuments of the west he turned to those of New York, and under the auspices of the Smithsonian produced *Aboriginal Monuments of New York*, which ranks with Lewis H. Morgan's *League of the Iroquois* in preserving

the scanty relics of knowledge concerning the red forbears of the Empire state.

The election of Gen. Zachary Taylor as President in 1848 gave the Whigs a chance, and in the distribution of offices the position of Chargé d’Affaires in Central America was given to Mr. Squier, April 2, 1849. The Whigs rather prided themselves on favoring men of letters. Washington Irving was sent to Spain after having indorsed Squier for Central America. Other indorsers were Prescott, the historian of Mexico; Sparks, who edited the letters of Washington; Gallatin, Edward Everett, John L. Stephens, himself a pioneer explorer in Central America; H. B. Anthony, of Rhode Island, long a dear and intimate friend; Bradish, Butler, Trumbull, and Potter, an array of supporters, as the *National Intelligencer* remarked, “at once imposing and irresistible.”

Then began that long and invaluable relationship with Central and South America that has since been coined into volumes of standard authority. The tropics made a lasting impression on his observing mind; nor did he see them romantically or with the eye of the adventurer. He looked beneath the verdure and the sky into the antiquities and utilities of the land, heedless of discomfort and with untiring energy, until he knew and had written down his knowledge.

He came to the shattered remains of what had promised to be a prosperous Central American

unity. The patriot Morazan had not long before been driven out and later shot by the half-breed Carrera. Morazan had really established a United States of Central America, but the greed of the adventurer overcame patriotism and self-sacrifice. The confederation was disrupted and returned to its former parts, but Carrera remained for more than twenty years the brutal master of the situation, guiding affairs from his stronghold in Guatemala. He called himself president, but he was a dictator—barefooted, sullen, and savage. With all the mixed conditions Mr. Squier came into quick harmony, and while his official term ended September 13, 1850, unofficially he became the great authority on Central American affairs, and remains such still in his published works. His chief activity covered the period from the date of his appointment until he saw Walker, the filibuster, buried in the red-dened sands at Truxillo in 1860.

Mr. Squier had profound faith in the possibilities of material development in Central America—where every prospect pleased and only the politicians were vile. He organized the Honduran Railroad, exploited a canal via the Nicaragua route, wrote clearly of the valuable native products, and, in short, was the exponent of the distracted little land.

The great war between the states shut out American interest in externals, and Mr. Squier became the editor of Frank Leslie's *Illustrated Weekly*,

when that pictorial was at the height of its success, and remained in the employ of the house of Leslie in editorial positions until illness incapacitated him for active labor, about seven years before his death. He died in Brooklyn, New York, April 17, 1888.

The bibliography appended to this volume is a better story of Mr. Squier's life than any biographer can write. He put his career into his books. The volumes have become rare, and are treasured by collectors and libraries.

D. C. S.

THE LETTERS, 1849-1870

I

(No date, but evidently early in 1849)

DEAR SQUIER:

I am much obliged to you for the pamphlet which you sent me with a sketch of the New York earth works. I read it with much interest, but hope before long to see a fuller account embracing all the plans, etc. I was glad to see the Delaware picture writing in the last *American Review*. By this time, I suppose you have changed your quarters as you told me you were going to do, on the morning when I smashed a bottle of Elliott's damnable compound in your room. A friend of mine, a Mr. Charles Norton,¹ who is going to review you in the next *North American*, is coming to New York and will call on you. He takes an interest in ethnology, and though I do not think your ideas and his are in all respects congenial—as his education has been rather of the strict and precise sort—yet you will find him a most capital fellow and well able to appreciate all that you have done. Who published Denonville's Expedition? Was it Marshall? If so I want to know him.

Believe me,

Very faithfully yours,

F. PARKMAN

¹ Prof. Charles Eliot Norton.

II

(On the publication of the *Oregon Trail* and the beginning of Mr. Parkman's historial work)

BOSTON, MARCH 15, 1849

DEAR SQUIER:

I beg you will excuse my being silent so long, which was in consequence of being a good deal below par in point of health as well as an occurrence of some interest to myself which has just taken place. I was very sorry that I did not hear from Copway¹ until he was on the point of leaving. I liked him very much and wanted to see more of him. Some time ago, I told Putnam to give you, in my name, a copy of the redoubtable *Oregon Trail*, which is just out. This is rather an awkward way of conveying it to you and perhaps after all you have not got it yet—if so, pray drop in upon Putnam the next time you pass there. I have been writing a little, but only a very little. Let me have the particulars of the Guatemala scheme—that is, what position it is you are anxious to reach, as it is possible that I may be able to make some influence in your favor. Norton wrote me that he had seen you. I think you will find him an acquaintance worth having, not only as a good fellow but because he stands among a set of literary men whose opinions and influence are worth having. The unfortunate *Trail* seems likely to be choked under a mass

¹ George Copway, the Ojibway historian and poet.

of California books. If you can give it a push, you will do it a favor.

I am at present grubbing into the history of the collision of the French and English in America, and tracing the effects which resulted therefrom to the Indian tribes, all this being considered as a sort of introduction to the history of the subsequent wars among the Indians themselves.

I think I shall be in New York before the Spring is out, and till then,

Believe me,

Very faithfully,

F. PARKMAN, JR.

III

(Written after receiving notice of Mr. Squier's appointment to his post in Central America)

BOSTON, MAY 13TH, 1849

MY DEAR SQUIER:

I was very glad indeed to get a line from you before your departure for the land of El Vomito, not however, that I augur for you any unpleasant visitations from that source. I have heard of your visitation from the measles, an infantile weakness, of which I should hardly have suspected you. This infliction together with the cares of science and of state which are weighing upon you, would be enough to smash any man who was not bound to go ahead. This latter destiny is, I flatter myself,

the one marked out for you, though I infer that you will have need of all your grit, as I am led to presume that Uncle Sam has burdened your shoulders with a greater load than you had bargained for:—that you will carry it through in safety, I do not doubt, nor do I doubt that the result of success will be such as to repay you for all your toil and trouble. Only don't let Politics swallow up science. They will pull together well enough and make a strong team—one however, which will require a hand as strong as yours to manage it. I hope you will find an opportunity to send me a line now and then, though I, poor devil, am compelled to lay disabled in port, while others are prosperously voyaging on the high seas. Damn the luck—perhaps my turn will come some time.

I have sent your letter to Mr. Marshall and am expecting his answer. Norton sails in a week or two, to my great regret. I hope that the map of the Iroquois country is not spoiled by your departure, if so, I shall mourn over it as a lamentable casualty. Perhaps by the time your volume on the Guatemala is out, I shall come down with a narrative of backwood scrimmages—but that all depends on my luck. My eyes I don't mind. I can get along without them, but to have one's brains stirred up in a mush, may be regarded as a decided obstacle in the way of intellectual achievements. Give me the tithe of a chance, and I will do it.

If I can do anything for you here, you will of course, make use of me, and meanwhile believe me, with the warmest wishes for your success.

Very faithfully yours,
F. PARKMAN, JR.

IV

BOSTON, OCT. 15, 1849

MY DEAR SQUIER:

I heartily congratulate you on the reception you met with at Leon, and particularly on the distinguished success of your negotiations and a pledge of future success, should your ambition lead you deeper into Politics. The affair is much talked of here and seems to excite very general attention everywhere as indeed it necessarily must. As for those fellows who have obligingly taken the kingdom of "Musquetia," under their protection,¹ I trust you will lose no opportunity of snubbing them on every possible occasion. I am very glad that your political work has not suspended your researches and I shall look anxiously for a forthcoming volume on the Antiquities of Central America. As for me, I am rather inclined to envy you less for your success and your prospects, than for your power of activity. From a complete and ample experience of both, I can bear witness that no amount of physical pain is so intolerable as the position of being stranded and doomed to be rot-

¹ The seizure of Tigre by the British, which made some stir.

ting for year after year. However, I have not abandoned any plan, which I have ever formed and I have no intention of abandoning any until I am made cold meat of. At present I am much better in health than when you last saw me, and I do not suffer from that constant sense of oppression on the brain which then at times annoyed me beyond endurance. I find myself able to work a little although my eyes are in a totally useless state, and excessively sensitive. The eyes are nothing to the other infernal thing which now seems inclined to leave me alone, good riddance to it; so I contrive to dig slowly along by the aid of other people's eyes, doing the work more thoroughly no doubt, and digesting my materials better than if I used my own. I have just obtained the papers which were wanting to complete my collection for the illustrative work on the Indians which I told you about. The manuscripts amount to several thousand pages. I am inclined to think the labor of collecting them might have been better bestowed, but I was a boy when I began it, and at all events it will be done thoroughly.

The commission which you charged me with will be duly attended to, at an early opportunity. Charley Norton is I suppose by this time at Madras. I saw his family the other day. They have several times spoken about you and will be very glad to hear of your luck. Mr. Gallatin's death is a blow to the Ethnologicals, and they will hardly

find such a rallying point as his house was.

If I can serve you in any way of writing or otherwise, I wish you would let me know and I shall be very glad to do anything in my power. By some practice I have caught the knack of dictating and find it as easy as lying. Drop me a line when you get a chance, and believe me,

Very truly yours,
F. PARKMAN

V

BOSTON, NOV. 18TH, 1849

MY DEAR SQUIER:

Your last note reached me a few days ago, and I shall certainly keep a bright look out for the publications which will throw any further light on your proceedings. I was in New York the other day where I saw at the Historical Society's rooms, a number of boxes of antiquities marked with your name and apparently sent there by Mr. Cotheal. Your communications published in the *Literary World* and elsewhere have attracted considerable attention. Copway has recently come back from his Western tour and is now in New York preparing to publish the Traditional History of the Ojibhewas, and a collection of their legends.

Between you and me I shall have no great faith in them. Copway is endowed with a discursive imagination and facts grow under his hands into a preposterous shape and dimensions. His scheme

of settling the Indians is a flash in the pan, or rather he has no settled scheme at all, and never had any. I had a letter from him dated at Council Bluffs which was I believe the farthest limit of his travels. He had a great deal to say about the forest gentlemen, nature's noblemen, etc., but very little about the regeneration of the tribes.

I enclose you a paragraph containing an account of some remarkable discoveries in the Navahoe country which was once as I remember the field of your own proposed researches, and where a vast deal doubtless, yet remains to be discovered. You will be rather surprised to hear that Hoffman, poor devil, became engaged to Schoolcraft's¹ daughter and took a fancy into his head that he was bound in consequence to avenge the wrongs of the Red race against the white men. This idea got such possession of him that his friends rightly concluded him to be mad and the match was broken off. He then threw up his Government employment and has not resumed it, in fact he is hardly capable. He made a desperate effort to act on Mrs. Emberg's advice and after such a result, it is not likely that he will try again.

The Nortons desire to be kindly remembered to you, the ring was smilingly accepted and I am requested to return many thanks for the gift. Mrs. Norton has been very dangerously ill, but seems

¹ Henry R. Schoolcraft.

now in a fair way to recover, especially since two days ago letters were received from Charley, announcing his safe arrival in Madras.

Believe me,

Very truly your friend,

F. PARKMAN, JR.

by C. S. B.

P.S.—When you write me again, which I hope will be very soon, tell me what was the upshot of your plan of publishing in conjunction with Mr. Marshall, a map of the Iroquois country. I hope you have not abandoned it. Mr. M. has been delivering a lecture touching on early Jesuit missions, etc., which has been published in *The Western Literary Messenger* and of which he sent me a copy. O'Callaghan's first volume of the documentary history of New York, is full of interest. You remember that you asked me by what authority it is stated that the Iroquois secured their palisades by an embankment of earth thrown up around the basis. By one of my notebooks, I find that the fact is mentioned by Cartier in his account of the village of Hochelaga which probably belonged to the Hurons and not the Five Nations though I have no doubt that the military structures of both were on the same plan.

VI

(To Mr. Squier in Central America)

BOSTON, APRIL 2, 1850

MY DEAR SQUIER:

The spirit moves me to write from having read your personal narrative, sent to the Ethnological Society—a document for which by the way, I owe you a grudge, as it kindled in me a burning desire to get among fevers and volcanoes, niggers, Indians and other outcasts of humanity, a restless fit which is apt to seize me at intervals and which you have unmercifully aggravated. I hear frequent mention of the idols, extremely curious and unspeakably ugly, which you have sent to Washington, and I hope some day to see the originals of those whose portraits figure in a late number of the *Literary World*. For my own part, I am usually kept a prisoner by the sensitive state of my eyes, which only permit me to come out like an owl after dark, but with the aid of an amanuensis I contrive to do a little reading and writing, and if nothing happens will probably finish the job in hand within a year, on which great occasion you will receive a presentation copy. There is nothing here of much importance in the literary way. Your friend Ticknor has come down with his three volumes on Spanish literature. Pickering's book is published in admirable style with fine engravings. It has been noticed in the *Conservative Review*, and other English journals, but

I hear that the method and arrangement are objected to as obscure. He goes for the derivation of the races of mankind from one source. Agassiz has written an article in which he aims at proving that both men and animals originated from different acts of creative power at different parts of the earth's surface. The Orthodox are at him in consequence, raising a great outcry about impiety, and attacking him with texts of Scripture. If they could, they would serve him as the Church served Galileo.

Norton has been up to Delhi and is now probably in Egypt, having done up his undertaking in very handsome style. He will probably remain abroad some time longer. It has been a Winter of excitement here, what with the threats of disunion and the consequent panic among the cotton spinners, and other events of a more domestic nature. Prof. Webster of Cambridge, whom perhaps you know, was sentenced to death yesterday for murdering my uncle in his laboratory at the Medical College, in order to prevent the exposure of numerous frauds and swindling transactions of which he, Webster, had been guilty. All the town has been in commotion, and the feeling of satisfaction at the result of the trial is, I believe universal.

In the course of this Spring I expect to become domiciliated at Milton, within a few miles of here, where I hope some day or other to welcome you

as my guest. Meanwhile wishing you all possible success, and an escape from fevers, snakes, dirks, revolvers and all other evils which may beset your path, I remain with warm regard,

Very faithfully yours,

F. PARKMAN, JR.

P.S. I had a letter from Schoolcraft the other day; he seems to be very busy about something but what the deuce it was, I could not tell. The second volume of the *Documentary History of New York* is already out.

VII

(No date, but evidently in 1850)

DEAR SQUIER:

I hear through the papers that you are in New York. If you come to Boston, which I hope you will, you will find me established in a domicile of my own at Milton, where I hope you will take up your quarters during your stay. The advantages are, country air and a railroad conveyance morning and night and through the day, to and from the City. Go to the Old Colony Depot near the U. S. Hotel in Boston, and get a ticket for Milton Lower Falls, and when there inquire for my house which is within five minutes walk of the Station house.

I shall finish my book in a month or two. The subject is wholly new, and I am told it will take.

Proposals for its publication are now before the Harpers—two vols., octavo.

Come in person, if you can, and if not, let me hear from you.

Yours very truly,
F. PARKMAN

VIII

MILTON, AUG. 5, 1850

MY DEAR SQUIER:

Yours of the 21st of July came in due time. Stick to your good resolutions, finish your book, despatch your filial duties. Do up Newport and then come here. At Newport you will find half Boston, including some old acquaintances. When you come bring with you the proofs of your book, and I will write a notice of it. I hope it is about Central America, personal experiences, etc. What the deuce has set our friend Bartlett off as Commissioner on the California boundary? The Comanches will make soup of him before he gets back. Drop me a line to tell me when I may expect you—the sooner the better—and believe me,

Yours very faithfully,
F. PARKMAN, JR.

IX

MILTON, SEPT. 6, 1850

MY DEAR SQUIER:

I owe the Washingtonians a grudge for their scandalous behavior in carrying you off from my

expectant eyes. So you've given up Nicaragua. All the better, I fancy for yourself and for your friends. Four years among Greasers and Indians with a touch of snakes, Alligators and El Vomito, would be unpalatable to the best stomached antiquarian. I don't wonder your Artist grew homesick, more especially as I fancy he hadn't much leisure time given him to swallow quinine and calomel.

I don't despair of seeing you yet. After October, by the way, I shall be in town where you will find me at my father-in-law's, Dr. Bigelow, but I hope to see you before that time at what you are pleased to call my classic retreat.

Yours very faithfully,
F. PARKMAN

X

BOSTON, FEB. 16, 1851

MY DEAR SQUIER:

I received your book yesterday—an accident prevented me from getting it sooner. Many thanks for the gift. I shall try to do it justice in the *Examiner* of next May, with some reference also to your former book with which I see a great part of the present volume is closely connected.

You are off I suppose next month. Write and let me know your movements if you are not too much jammed up for time. I am now in the hands of the devils.

Yours very truly,
PARKMAN

P.S. If you happen to meet the Editor of the *American Review*, say a good word for me—something in the way of introduction. I may have something to do with him hereafter. Thanks for the pamphlet about volcanoes, and for the portrait no less. The latter is a duplicate but so much the better.

XI

BOSTON, APRIL 30, 1851

MY DEAR SQUIER:

The *Serpent Symbol* came to hand a few days ago through Norton. Many thanks for it. Thus far I know nothing of its interior except the very captivating pictures of snakes, and unseemly phallic emblems which impress me with a desire for further information. What with the bustle of moving out of town, and the temporary discharge of my reader, I am left for the present eyeless. The reader, however, will soon resume her labors, when I propose to enlighten her mind by a contemplation of the reciprocal powers of nature and the superstitions thereto belonging. I send you along with this letter a copy of the *Examiner* in which something is said of yourself and works.

Do you stay long in New York? I shall soon be established for the Summer in Brookline. If you come this way you know how to find me and a hearty welcome.

Yours truly,

F. PARKMAN

XII

BOSTON, MAY 14, 1851

MY DEAR SQUIER:

Not long since, I met Rev. Mr. Osgood, pastor of I don't exactly know what church in New York, who, hearing that I was to be delivered of a volume, obligingly offered his services as a Wet Nurse and proposed to exhibit the book at a meeting of the Ethnological Society, that receiving their approval, it might figure in the reports of their proceedings and thereby gain glory and renown. I have accordingly sent him a bundle of the proofs. But for his offer, I might have inflicted them upon you, and you owe the Reverend gentleman thanks for having saved you from a bore. If you have any curiosity to look them over, he will lend them to you. At all events give them your vote at the meeting, and when you chance to meet any of the editors with whom your voice is potential, speak a word in their ears in behalf of the forthcoming *Conspiracy of Pontiac*.

Among the tribulations of your life, you have not yet numbered the crowning evil called par excellence "moving." I have just tasted it in all its bitterness but am snugly shaken down at last, and divide my time between antiquities, agriculture, and educating a dog. My box is in Brookline, four miles from town.

F. PARKMAN, JR.

XIII

(On the publication of the *Conspiracy of Pontiac*)

BOSTON, JULY 9, 1851

MY DEAR S.:

A friend of mine reading my proof sheets, volunteered to write a preliminary puff. I assented and told him to enclose it to you, and you would put it in the *Am. Review*, or some other Journal. This was a fortnight ago. Meeting him to-day he told me that he had already manufactured and sent the puff. I had not expected—he being a dilatory gentleman, such prompt execution, and so did not warn you. I really don't care whether the thing is published or not so if it will give you the least trouble, pray let it alone, enough has been done already to answer the purpose. If it is quite in your way, and if, in reading the paper, you think it will serve its end—I myself have not seen it—you can give it to your old friends of the *American*—to Ripley, or anybody you like. Otherwise fling it into the fire.

When I last wrote, I had not seen the very kind notice in the *International*, which I presume to be yours. Be assured, I highly value your commendation—no man's more so—and nothing could be more acceptable than such a token of your friendship.

You got my note of a few days since? I hope you will find it worth while to attend to the hints

contained in it. As for the matter I have been speaking of, it is not of a farthing's consequence. If the paragraph is published at all, it had better be a month hence than now. "Pontiac" won't be out till September. Some delay is caused by waiting for an English edition, which Bentley is to father.

Your obliged friend,
F. PARKMAN

XIV

BOSTON, SEPT. 12, 1851

MY DEAR SQUIER:

I have just sent you a copy of my book—Adams Express care of Putnam. When will your own ship be launched? I saw in Norton's *Advertiser* or somewhere else that you would be off again this Fall and no mistake for Central America, accompanied by an Artist who I hope will serve you better than the last. In regard to the present affair, can I do anything for you? The literary gentleman who concocted the puff of which I wrote to you, has marvelled greatly at its non-appearance at which his vanity is touched. I profess ignorance as to what has become of it and advise him to a diligent examination of the contemporary New York papers. Wherever it is I doubt it's in the right place; but whether you threw it into the grate or devoted it to Cloacina you need not tell me, for I expect further queries before

long and prefer to retain the plea of ignorance.
Give me a hint of your movements, and believe me,

Yours very truly,
F. PARKMAN, JR.

P.S. A young heiress is yawling in the next room. Mrs. P. quite well.

XV

BOSTON, SEPT. 17, 1851

MY DEAR SQUIER:

Yours of the 13th came to hand yesterday; I commiserate your situation and wish you a prosperous deliverance. Quill driving in the Tartarian weather of last week is too serious a matter for a joke and as for the thirty pages of proofs, they will serve to expiate all your numerous past sins, and form a handsome balance against any which it may please you to commit in future. I think Littell will insert extracts. I met him the other day and with your matter in view, dropped a hint to that effect, so send along your sheets, and if he won't listen to reason, I will find some editor who will.

Being just out of one scrape, I am plunging into a worse one. "Pontiac," thank Heaven, is off the stocks. When the next will be, I don't know, but suppose my hair will be grey first. Go to work at consulting fifteen hundred books in five different languages with the help of a school girl who hardly knows English and you will find it a bore; add

to this the infantile music in the next room and you will agree that my iniquities have as good a chance of being atoned for as yours.

Yours very faithfully,

F. PARKMAN

P.S. A word in the ear of the *American Review* would not be amiss. He has my book. Just give him a hint to use it with propriety.

XVI

BOSTON, SEPT. 20, 1851

MY DEAR S.:

Why, the deuce, are you fagging yourself to death. Take a trip to England or anywhere else that will set you up. Nature has made you tough as a pine knot, but a pine knot won't stand fire. As for the matter of *Pontiac*, clear your conscience of that business. I have done nothing to serve you that I am aware of more than you have done for me, and if I had, it would not have been on the quid pro quo principle. The sheets have come to hand and shall be submitted to Littell on Monday. Perhaps I shall write again in a day or two, until then believe me, in haste,

Yours truly,

PARKMAN

XVII

BOSTON, OCT. 3, 1851.

MY DEAR SQUIER:

Will you stop at Duyckinck's office and find out for me whether or not he has got a copy of *Pontiac*.

There was some trouble about it at first—the book didn't reach him for some reason or other. It has been forwarded since and I wish you would find out if he has got it and let me know; for as his paper is silent I think it possible that it may have miscarried. Littell will have your extract in his next week's number.

Yours very truly,
F. PARKMAN

XVIII

BOSTON, NOV. 3, 1851

MY DEAR SQUIER:

Let me congratulate you on having got through with your book which I hope will prove a Californian gold mine. With respect to England, I was there only six weeks, seven years ago, and made no acquaintances except travelling ones, who by this time have forgotten me as I have them. The only man I know in London who can do anything except invite you to a stiffnecked, white cravated dinner party, is an American who is, or has been connected with the British Museum, one of the sort commonly called "smart fellers" with a considerable knowledge of the world, a great knowledge of books and libraries, and an eye to the main chance. I should think you might find him a good acquaintance. Possibly you know him already—his name is Henry Stevens,¹ but in case you don't I enclose a

¹ Mr. Stevens lived to compile a remarkable catalogue of the Americana in the British archives, published in 1903.

note to him. I don't know his London address, but you'll easily find it by inquiring at the American Minister's or probably at Chapman's book store.

As for Paris, since the death of my revered Uncle who dwelt there, and who was truly a jewel to the bewildered traveller, I can think of no acquaintance I have there except one old classmate, a good-natured eccentric fellow who walks the hospitals, and to whom I will gladly introduce you if you think it worth while.

Can you take care of a parcel as big as an octavo volume to be delivered to Poussin, late French Minister to the U. S. The parcel may be left with Hector Bossange, the Paris book seller. I am sorry I can't do more for you.

Yours very truly,

F. PARKMAN

P.S. It just occurs to me that one of my six score of cousins and a good whole souled fellow is in the firm of Baring & Brothers. It's queer enough that I didn't think of him before. You'll find a line to him enclosed.

Here follows a long gap in the correspondence as preserved. The next letter bears the date of 1859.

XIX

8 Walnut St.,
BOSTON, AUG. 15, 1859

DEAR SQUIER:

Yr. Note has reached me, but minus the prospectus wh. it seems, has miscarried, but wh. may yet turn up. I can proffer no farther aid than the slight one of requesting a place for my name on the subscription list. I have lately come from Europe, whither I hope soon to return. My wife's recent death, with other causes, has of necessity changed my scheme of life for a time. I heard of your marriage some time ago.

With all good wishes for your plans, believe me,

Yours sincerely,

F. PARKMAN

Here is another break, until 1866.

XX

BOSTON, JAN. 18, 1866

MY DEAR SQUIER:

I am truly glad to brighten the old chains again. I had read of your shabby treatment in respect to the Prescott papers and have ascribed the dog in the manger way in which they are held to the influence of Mrs. Prescott in her anxiety to taboo whatever belonged to her husband. I believe that they belong to her son-in-law Lawrence, who on other occasions, has acted liberally. Last evening I saw

Judge Lowell, son of the Trustee of the Lowell Institute, and put it to him that the community of the Hub were entitled to hear about the new discoveries in Peru from the discoverer himself, and I added more for his, Mr. Lowell's enlightenment. He took it well and is disposed as far as himself is concerned to act on the hint. His father, the Trustee, is not so approachable, and has his peculiarities, so that I must wait a little for a favorable opportunity, but you may be sure that I shall not let it slip. If you do not lecture here it will be rather worse than ridiculous, in fact it is so that you have not been called here already. You may rely on me to push the matter all I can, as much for the sake of the public as for yourself.

I did not know that you had suffered so much in your eyes. The symptoms being what they were, you were very fortunate to get off as you did. I have a fellow feeling with you in respect to * * *, who nearly blinded me, and for this and other reasons hated me to the extent of his capacity. For myself my eyes are still of little use and will do their work for only a few minutes.

I have sent you to-day a copy of the *Pioneers* which I hope that you and Leslie will find to your liking. Never again come to Boston without letting me know. In summer a line to Jamaica Plain will bring me. In winter I am to be found at No. 50 Chestnut St. You see by this note that I don't use my eyes long even by day, my reading and

writing are mainly vicarious—a trouble they say, of the optic nerve, chronic like everything else that gets hold of me. What has shelved me so long however, and deprived mankind of the benefit of my labors has been in the nature of a pressure on the brain, which had to be humored, lest worst should come of it. This and the optic nerve business being, say the doctors, in the same box. Now I hope with all my heart, that you are out of the woods. Pluck is a good thing but so is a good carcass. The first promotes the last, when backed with discretion—a quality which I beg to commend to you in respect to the use of your eyes, and so,

Good bye,

F. PARKMAN

To Hon. E. G. Squier.

XXI

No. 50 Chestnut Street,
BOSTON, FEB. 2, 1866

MY DEAR SQUIER:

I have looked over the photographs with great interest, I now return them. I have had two conversations with Mr. Lowell, I showed him the pictures. He is interested and seems favorably disposed. He says that he shall make out his list for the next series of courses in the course of this month, and I feel confident that you will hear from him. If not, I shall set others upon him and he will not cease to hear your name till he comes to

reason. Mr. Sparks has already promised to write to him if necessary.

If you will send me the pictures of which you speak, I can use them to your advantage, especially if they come before Wednesday next. A brief minute of the most important points of your discoveries would be well.

Thanks for the *Leslie*. Did you get the book I sent you?

Ever faithfully,

F. P.

To Hon. E. G. Squier.

XXII

JAMAICA PLAIN, 24TH OCT. '67

MY DEAR SQUIER:

Yours of the 17th has just reached me—for it is three days since I last went to Boston. I am truly glad to hear of your return in good condition and “hard at work.”

I have had two letters from you, which came while I was in the West. When I got them I thought it more than probable that you would leave Paris before a reply could reach you—so wrote none.

D’Avezais’ information was very difficult and useful. I have since had a letter from Margry. Your *Leslie*, with a notice of him and something about Peru, has not come. Don’t let me lose it.

Many thanks for your kind offices in the matter of the *Pioneers*. They are excellently placed. You will get the *Jesuits* by mail in a day or two. The

introduction is ethnological—you had better read it, if you have time, the rest will do for a rainy Sunday when the inclemency of the weather keeps you from church. Some of the Catholics and some of the Puritans sputter at the book—others take it very kindly only regretting that the heretical author will probably be damned. Meanwhile he would be gratified to have his book known to the great host of the readers of *Leslie*. How about Peru? Is the book under way? With best remembrance to Mrs. Squier,

Very truly,

PARKMAN

XXIII

BOSTON, 29TH FEB., 1868

DEAR SQUIER:

I met Ned Dana yesterday who told me that, about the time of Buchanan's election, being with you in Paris, he saw a certain French gentleman, a friend of yours, who said that he had a collection of papers of Montcalm which he meant to send to Prescott. You, like a good fellow, advised him to send them to me—but he has not.

Dana don't remember his name. Can you send it to me? Dana is still very much under the weather, and suffers greatly. How is the Peru book? Go ahead.

Pray remember me to Mrs. Squier.

Very truly yours,

F. PARKMAN

XXIV

DEAR SQUIER:

I have looked over with interest your pamphlet on Peruvian monuments,¹ and hope that it is an earnest of the greater work to come. Meanwhile I add it to my collection of Squier's miscellaneous, repeating to you the advice which I constantly bore my French correspondent Margry—who like you has a mass of invaluable material—publish and keep on publishing.

By the way, has the name of the man with the Montcalm papers ever re-entered your memory? I found and bagged one but not that to which you alluded, which I failed wholly to trace.

Very truly yours,

PARKMAN

50 Chestnut St.,
5th April [1870]

¹ *Observations on the Geology and Archæology of Peru*, a paper read before the American Geographical Society.

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